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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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4-23-1920

## Justice (Vol. 2, Iss. 17)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 2, Iss. 17)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold  
fast, and will  
not let it go."  
— Job. 31, 6

# JUSTICE

"We ought to  
be just even to  
our enemies."  
— Pres. Wilson.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II. No. 17.

New York, Friday, April 23, 1920.

Price 2 Cents

## Controversy Renewed in the Waist and Dress Industry

**Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association Claims that the Union Abrogated the Agreement.—Schlesinger Replied that Manufacturers Repudiated Pact by Not Adhering to Preferential Shop Clauses.—A New Injunction Suit Against the International.**

The President of the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association has raised an alarm in the "Women's Wear," the trade organ of the ladies' garment manufacturers, that the Waistmakers' Union, Local 25, has abrogated the agreement of 1919, that the Union is being controlled by "a very radical and syndicalist element" and other terrible things.

The occasion for bringing up this question now is the following incident. William Jay Schieffelin, chairman of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the garment trades, together with Edward F. Brown and Alexander H. Kaminsky, impartial chairmen in the dress and waist industry, offered their services as mediators to bring about a resumption of amicable relations between the employers and the Union. Mr. Schieffelin sent a letter to the manufacturers and the Union inviting them "to meet together in an informal, intimate conference in the interest of the tens of thousands of laborers and of the enterprises to which they look for their living."

The union would readily accept the invitation to come to a conference with the employers. But that is the very thing the manufacturers fear. They have good reason for keeping the working conditions in the dark and not to expose to public view the miserably low wages paid to the workers. They have therefore hastily published Mr. Schieffelin's letter together with their reply refusing to meet the representatives of the Union on the ground that the Union has repudiated the agreement and that it is being controlled by "a very radical and syndicalist element." These legends, which have been worked to death by manufacturers generally, are not sufficient reasons for refusing to confer with representatives of the workers even for the manufacturers. And they try gracefully to wiggle out of an embarrassing situation by offering the following conditions which the Union must accept before they agree to a conference. The Union must restore the collective agreement; they must furnish an adequate security that they will indemnify the members of the Association against loss in the event of any recurrence of repudiation by the Union of the agreement.

President Schlesinger made the following statement to the "Women's Wear":

"The International was on the point of writing a reply to Mr. Schieffelin when the manufacturers' reply appeared in Women's Wear. This made us stop our intended letter.

"As to the charges of the manufacturers that the Union has not

lived up to the spirit and letter of the agreement — we take strong exception to it. Prior to my leaving for Europe, several months ago, we were conferring with committees from the Manufacturers' Association, pointing out to them that the association was not living up to the agreement. The pact of 1919 provided for a preferential shop which was not adhered to by the association. As a matter of fact, even some of the members of the association's executive board were operating non-union shops. It is quite clear that employers operating non-union shops cannot be the spokesmen for an organization having a collective agreement with the union.

In reviewing the controversy between the association and the Union President Schlesinger pointed out that the real difference of opinion between the two parties

began when the union presented its wage demands several months ago.

"Eighty per cent of the trade," he continued, "through an impartial adjuster have seen fit to advance the wages of the workers and to make these increases permanent, until December 31, 1920, when the present agreement is to expire. The Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association wanted to make the increases only temporary. At the time the demands were presented the agreement had to run only about 10 months. The employers knew as well as anybody else that there was no likelihood of the cost of living coming down, and hence should not have objected strenuously, as they did, to making these advances permanent. The union could under no circumstances make exception

(Continued on Page 5)

## NEW YORK CLOAKMAKERS' UNION GIVES WITH A LAVISH HAND

At its meeting last Saturday the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union was visited by two committees seeking material aid for a "good cause." Neither of the committees thought their time wasted after the close of the meeting.

B. Vladeck headed the first committee. This committee came to plead for the Warsaw Jewish labor paper, "Lebens Fragen." Comrade Vladeck had an exceedingly easy job in driving his point home. He spoke to a group of people who keenly realized the need of a labor press, particularly under the present conditions in Poland. The Joint Board has promptly contributed fifty thousand marks for the "Lebens Fragen."

The second committee that came to seek aid from the Joint Board represented the amnesty organizations. The committee was headed by Miss Lucy Robbins. There was little need to explain to the cloakmakers the tremendous significance of the amnesty movement. The fact is that the Cloakmakers' Union was among the first to help this movement from the start. It is evident that Miss Robbins did not have to do very much pleading. The Joint Board contributed 500 dollars to help release the political prisoners.

These contributions of the Joint Board are not by any means exceptional. Various committees of one kind or another come to the weekly meetings of the Joint Board asking for help. And none of them are refused. The Joint

Board does not offer its contributions in any other spirit but that of co-operation. It feels it as a duty and debt toward the general labor movement here and abroad.

It should be remarked, however, that the Cloakmakers' Union is not alone possessing this characteristic. What is usually referred to as the East Side labor organizations have this trait in common. It will not be in the least exaggerated to say that most of the contributions with which to combat the Luskens and all their savage campaigns of repression, to help the amnesty movement and to defend the hunted and persecuted in this age of hysteria, was raised by these East Side labor organizations.

It may be recalled that about half of the money raised for the steel strikers in their struggle for the union principle of collective bargaining came from the two great organizations, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. Both of these organizations contributed 165 thousand dollars out of the total sum of 416 thousand dollars raised for the Steel Strike. These two organizations have contributed as much as the rest of the labor organizations of this country. Had the strike continued longer the International would have abided by the decision to raise a quarter of a million of dollars, and the Amalgamated whose first contribution was 100 thousand dollars would have done likewise.

## LADIES TAILORS' UNION WINS STRIKE

The strike of the Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 80, against Hickson and Co. was settled last Monday, April 19, after a struggle of 12 weeks, with a complete victory for the Organization. Last Tuesday morning the workers have triumphantly returned to work.

The significance of the victory for the Union is not so much in the actual achievements for the workers. It is rather the fact that Hickson and Co. has gone out of business. This firm finally realized that it is futile to fight against the elementary rights of the workers to organize. And rather than to have its autocratic power curtailed it has sold out. Next to Milgrim Brothers, this firm was the worst and most backward in the trade. There were strikes and grievances and disputes without end. Every season was marked by some strikes. There was no end of troubles for the Union. It is therefore a very big victory for the workers in being able to drive Hickson and Co. out of business and return to work to a union shop.

What was formerly the shop of Hickson and Co. is now under a new and responsible management. Mr. Saul Singer of the cloak firm, Singer Bros., and Mr. Cohen of the Straton Co., both prominent in the industry, are the new owners of the shop. They are dealing with the Union and they know that it is useless and extremely unprofitable to combat the Union. They accept the union shop as an incontestable fact and they live up to the agreements entered into with the Organization. The Union shop which the workers have won is the more significant as it was out of the strongholds of industrial autocracy.

In spite of the fact that the Union is barred from picketing the shop of Milgrim Bros. by the temporary injunction against the Organization, the strike is conducted with undiminished energy. The case will soon be brought to a higher court, and there is little doubt but that the injunction will be removed. The Union will then have the right to picket the shop. The members of the Union are paying 2 dollars a week to help the strikers win the strike.

The strike against J. M. Giddings, Fifth Ave. and 46th Street is still on. This aristocratic custom dress house is another of those firms that is stubbornly but hopelessly fighting the Union. The strike is conducted by the Ladies Tailors' Union, Local 80, and the Dressmakers' Union, Local 90. The girls of Local 90 with the men of Local 80 are picketing the shop. The workers show a remarkable enthusiasm and a firm determination. They are prepared to stay out and fight until the firm will grant their just demands.

Amidst all these struggles and activities the ladies tailors will celebrate May Day, the International Labor Holiday.

# Topics of the Week

## Is the Railroad Strike Won?

THE Railroad Labor Board appointed by the President is already on the job adjusting the wage controversy between the railroad workers and the companies. Nevertheless the strike is still on and the transportation continues to be badly crippled in spite of the assurance of the press to the contrary. It is of course, unusual for a governmental body to proceed with deliberations while a strike is going on in the industry which it is trying to adjust. But although a committee of insurgents were given a brief hearing the Board refused to recognize the strike or its leaders.

The chiefs of the 'Big Four' will doubtless present the case of the railroad workers before the Board. They will, of course, represent the workers not as strikers — they have been 'outlawed' the strike — but as 'loyal' workers. In reality they will represent the strikers as self-appointed spokesmen, for seldom have leaders been so thoroughly hated by the rank and file as are the Brotherhood chiefs. There has been sufficient ground or such an attitude. Not only have they indulged in futile policies in the past, but they have been on the side of the railroad companies and Palmer during the past two weeks of the strike.

The Brotherhood chiefs apparently encouraged the Palmer theory that the strike was led by the I. W. W. They have not protested against the arrest of John Grunau, president of the Chicago Truckers' Association, and 22 other strike leaders. The press reported that they backed the ultimatum issued by the managers to the strikers. The managers gave the workers one day in which to return to work. The concluding paragraph of the ultimatum is significant. It reads:

"In any event, the railroads retain the right to refuse to re-engage or reemploy certain employees who have shown during the period of trouble by violence, seditious utterances, intimidation or other well-defined means an unfitness for further railroad service."

It is reported that the Brotherhood chiefs are in favor of this move, which practically means the surrender of the union, because they feel it will bring back to the fold only the loyal and regular workers. Whether the management and the Brotherhood chiefs mean to live up to this condition is yet to be seen. It is hardly thinkable that the chiefs of the 'Big Four' could so completely lose their heads as to give up what is fundamental to the organization and what has been achieved after long years of struggle.

The other day there was a significant announcement that the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen has withdrawn as a member of the Plumb Plan League and that the other three brotherhoods — engineers, firemen and conductors — will follow their example. This action is significant and reveals the penitent souls of the chiefs for ever starting a movement which was bound to stir up thought. By withdrawing from the Plumb Plan League they hope to lull their membership into their complacent, conservative inertia. The leaders must be very desperate indeed to entertain such hopes.

The railroad strike is characterized by the savage attacks of the press. The press has never been too friendly to strikes, but seldom

has there been such mud slinging, lies and glorification of the seabs. In fact, "break the strike" has become a sort of patriotic motto. And those who have most readily responded to this motto were the universities. They have turned into seab agencies during this emergency, and they recruited more of these seabs than could be ordinarily secured. It is a sad commentary on American education when universities are turned to serve plutocracy in this indecent manner.

It is extremely difficult to foresee the outcome of the strike, because the issue is not only that of wages but of the future of the railroad labor organization. The workers not only face a prolonged struggle with the Labor Board but with the chiefs of their organizations. Instead of concentrating all their efforts to combat the common enemy, the railroad workers will have to exert a great deal of energy in fighting their enemies within their ranks.

## Republican Party Quizes the A. F. of L.

IN response to a very authentic impulse, the Republican national committee sent out a questionnaire to the American Federation of Labor and to numerous labor officials, covering 55 subjects, with subdivisions.

In Question 52, the Republicans propound the following problem: "What form of profit-sharing, if any, will promote thrift, co-operation and a better understanding of the function of the capitalist, trustee and administrator of wealth in the interest of the producers and consumers alike?"

Answer to this and the fifty-four other questions has been made in a pamphlet issued by the platform committee of the A. F. of L. National Nonpartisan Political Campaign Committee — Samuel Gompers, Frank Morrison and Father Wenz. The answer to Question 52 is as follows:

"Is this question predicated upon a possible degeneration of a national political party to the effect that employers are 'trustees and administrators of wealth in the interests of producers and consumers alike?' Surely this is interesting. By what right have they obtained the trusteeship? By Divine Right? American labor entertains no such delusion. Trustees derive their authority from a principal who trusts them. 'Producers and consumers' have, so far as the records show, never agreed upon any 'trustee' of the character here suggested.

"Profit-sharing is not a device for the promotion of thrift and co-operation. It is a device for the entrenchment of privilege and for the subjection of workers. It is calculated to produce docility of spirit and to discourage organization among the workers. Without organization and without freedom of action among workers there can be no true and effective co-operation with employers for any of the objects which are worth while in industry. The capitalist who asks the workers to accept profit-sharing has no notion that he is acting in the capacity of a trustee in the administration of the property he possesses and the implication to that effect in the question is evidently a crude and clumsy effort to give standing and circulation to a misconception. Does the question imply the resurrection of the idea of the trusteeship of wealth which was believed to have been

# To-Day and To-Morrow

By S. YANOFKY

This is your holiday, — profiteers and exploiters.

Today, — when the railroad workers have gone out on strike after being robbed through the unscrupulous tricks from every side, from the Government, from the railroad magnates, from their own leaders, after years of privation — today is your holiday.

"Make hay while the sun shines," is your motto. And you certainly make good use of this precept. The transportation is tied up and you fill your pockets with money. You have raised ten cents on the pound of butter, five cents on sugar, not because there is a shortage of these commodities. No, you have stored up enough to last you for months. This is an opportune moment for you; the workers are down, and you swoop down on the beloved public and fleece it.

This is your day, hypocrites! who so eloquently speak about the interests of the public in time of strike but who unhesitatingly pillage the same public on the flimsiest of pretexts. This is your chance, bloodthirsty, avaricious profiteers who vociferate and clamor and whimper that the workers are too extravagant in their demands. Don't they strike against their own leaders! you ask. Today, you shriek that society and civilization is in danger, and urge our legislatures to speedily adopt new laws and rob the people of the meager rights and freedom that are left them.

Yes, this is your holiday, fleecers, abject hypocrites, political speculators, exploiters, who revel in your loot. Today, you are rejoicing. Today, you can undeterred, without fear give vent to your ferocious animal instincts. The laws are not intended for you. You can rob, fleece, extort, glut as much as you like. The war law, the Lever Act, is intended on-

intered with the remains of the late George F. Baer!"

As to "the proper function of the boycott, the A. F. of L. spokesmen say that is a weapon born of necessity and that "It is not possible, nor is it desirable by law or decree to limit the freedom of action of working people who may elect singly or collectively seek to improve the conditions under which they live and thus to make more valuable to the country their services and citizenship. It would be inhuman to deny to one group the right to go to the assistance of another group. . . . At various times and under varying conditions the struggle has taken on different forms and at times it has been attended by a roughness and even a crudeness which in the abstract might appear to be undesirable. The fact that civilization is today at such an advanced stage is due solely to this age-long struggle. No intelligent person will deny that much improvement still is necessary, nor that there must be a continuance of the struggle if the improvement is to be secured."

Running through all the questions is the implication that the Republican Committee is seeking for endorsements of non-union shop, anti-strike laws, and the substitution of "welfare work" for representation of the workers. No amount of negotiations and bargaining on the part of labor will modify the principles or tactics of the Republican or Democratic parties. The A. F. of L. chiefs know

ly for the workers which makes conspirators and traitors out of them when they go out on strike for more bread.

Yes, this is your day. But tomorrow! When the workers will finally behold your hideous nakedness, your hypocritical sermons of law and order which you yourselves trample under foot will be of no avail. They shall not be deluded by your glittering falsehoods. When the workers will finally realize your duplicity, guile, deceit, when they will see how you swindle and mercilessly rob the public on whose behalf you seem to be preaching to the workers, your day will be over.

Yes, there will come a tomorrow.

But let us tell you a short but significant story.

There lived in France in 1879 a certain Foullard. He was a renowned financier, a great business man. He was a man who was as well versed in the art of exploitation as any of you. He knew how to utilize the poverty and destitution of the French people, of the peasants, and coin millions out of their terrible needs. It is Foullard who advised the people to eat grass.

The people of Paris have stormed the Bastille. They were victorious. Foullard realized that Paris was not a safe place for him and he tried to escape. But he was not successful. Even the rumor of his death was of no avail. The people seized him. They tied a bundle of grass, the food he suggested for the people, around his body. They brought him to the City Hall of Paris and strung him up on a lamp post.

This was Foullard's tomorrow. Remember, profiteers, fleecers of the people, speculators, exploiters and hypocrites. You cannot always have a holiday. There is also a tomorrow.

But they are pledged to "non-partisan" politics which means to work for either Republican or Democratic machines or both.

## The Assembly Legislates

S ELDON has the New York State Assembly been blessed with such a set of law givers who so ruthlessly entered into the business of legislation. The Assembly has not only passed resolutions against Socialists and Reds but it actually expelled the duly elected Socialist representatives. And the legislators did not rest here. Last Tuesday, the Assembly passed by a vote of 83 to 56 two bills designed to bar the Socialist Party in the State from participation in elections. It is suggestive, however, that eleven of the thirteen members of the Judiciary Committee failed to support the measures. It must be remembered that the Committee urged that laws be enacted which would prevent the Socialist party from being again active in State politics. One of the bills set up a series of qualifications for members of the Legislature. Another is the support and advocacy of principle which might violate the Constitution, as the Luskens understand it.

Together with the Lusk bills passed by the Assembly last week, the measures debarring a political party from the polls constitute the harshest attack on representative government ever undertaken by hirelings of the ruling classes.

# Our Workers' University

By FANNIA M. COHN  
(Secretary Educational Committee I. L. G. W. U.)

Now that the Convention is approaching, and the educational activities of our International will be considered by that body, it is the proper time to make a historical review of the developments and achievements of our Educational Department.

It was in 1914 that a group of our members began to consider the necessity of having our International initiate education—not the kind of education which was offered to adults with a view to making them more efficient and better workers, but rather the kind of education that would make them more intelligent workers and citizens of the community in which they reside. That group felt that since many of the workers leave school at an early age (before they have an opportunity to develop personality and gain character) and enter into the mills and factories, and since under the strain of daily, continuous work they are apt to get out of touch with effective educational effort, that if our International would consider education as a part of its activities, they might bridge the gulf between childhood and manhood. In short, this little group believed that their own Trade Union should be deeply concerned with the intellectual developments and spiritual needs of its members in so far as their material welfare is concerned.

Having no definite, worked-out plan as to what kind of educational activities would be best for us, they were satisfied to stress the necessity of labor education within the Trade Union Movement until it was generally recognized, for this in itself would mean victory. Once this conception is established, the Labor Movement will already have found the proper form of education. Inspired by this thought, this group of members went to the Cleveland Convention of our International, in 1914, and introduced a resolution to this effect.

A start was made when the Cleveland Convention appropriated \$1,500 for educational activities. The International cooperated with the Rand School of Social Science, where special classes were organized for our members. In 1915, the Waist and Dress Makers' Union, Local 25, of New York City, organized its own educational activities and concentrated them in a public school building under the name of Unity Center. The work was started in cooperation with the New York Board of Education. The understanding was that the Board of Education was to assign teachers of English for special classes organized for our members only. In addition to that, lectures were arranged on different subjects. Lecturers were paid by the Union.

At the Philadelphia Convention of 1916 the question of labor education was more seriously taken up, and it was decided that our International appoint a committee of five, and that a fund of \$5,000 be appropriated at the disposal of this committee, to be spent for educational activities. The committee accepted the plan of the Waist Makers and opened a few Unity Centers, thus laying a foundation for the Workers' University, which was opened in the beautiful building, Washington

Irvine High School. The work was directed by the committee with Miss Juliet Stuart Poynts as educational director. To the Boston Convention in 1918, the Educational Committee presented a report of its accomplishments, which was heartily endorsed by the delegates assembled. The General Executive Board was instructed to spend \$10,000 yearly to carry on the work of education.

The main work that has been done since these activities were started, was to carry on an educational campaign among our numerous members to stimulate in them a desire for educational activities within the Trade Union Movement. At the present our members feel that their work looks up as an experiment for the entire Labor Movement. Our members take pride in the fact that they are spending tens of thousands of dollars yearly for the purpose of developing their own intelligent leadership. They feel that through their educational activities they are giving a chance to those of our members who have the energy, and ability, and desire to serve the Labor Movement, to develop character and accumulate knowledge that will make them feel that this great task.

At present our International supports a Workers' University, which meets at Washington, Irving High School in New York City. The business agents and other officers of the Local Unions attend classes of a post graduate character. The courses are on many subjects of university grade.

We are well aware of the great difficulties which the worker must overcome while studying: the exhaustion by mechanical labor; the demand upon his leisure made by

unregulated overtime, especially in the Ladies' Garment Industry, the irregular hours of employment, the time necessary to spend in traveling to and from work, and the many duties of his own class as a member of a Trade Union, as a citizen of a community—all this is a great tax on his time. Therefore we decided to accommodate our members by having the classes at our University on Saturday afternoons, Sunday mornings, and other evenings which our members can spare.

An important branch of our educational activities is the Unity Center. At present we have six Unity Centers in the Public School Buildings in the different parts of the city where our members reside. In each Unity Center there are classes in English, or elementary, intermediate, advanced and high school grade. The teachers are assigned by the Evening School Department of the Board of Education. At each Unity Center there is an Educational Supervisor also assigned by the Department of Community and Recreation Centers of the Board of Education. Our International arranges independently a series of lectures on the Labor Movement, Trade Unionism, and Economics. The rest of the curriculum deals with Health, or subjects of more cultural interest, such as Literature, Music, Art, Educational Films, and talks on vital subjects.

We realize that no teacher can be successful with our people unless he knows their surroundings, their problems, unless he is acquainted with the books they read—from which they get their inspiration and their social ideas—and unless the teacher appreciates and sympathizes with the point of

view which these students approach the subject that interests them. Recognizing all this, we take great pains to acquaint our teachers with all these problems before he enters the class. Therefore in engaging the teachers for our University, as well as for our Unity Centers, attention is paid not only to their academic qualifications, but also to their experience of willingness to acquaint themselves with all these problems.

The close personal relationship between the students and the teacher is very remarkable. They are like one family, imbued by the same spirit, of the importance of the experiment, and all of them take it seriously and feel themselves to be under honorable obligation to complete the experiment.

That this great work of our International may bear worthy fruit, both special text books and teachers must be acquired; and this, at any cost. Most of the text books are written either for college students or for children in the grades. We realize this problem, and therefore we have arranged that the lectures given by our teachers shall be reported verbatim by stenographers, and we hope by the end of the season to publish these reports, which will serve as text books for our members and teachers in the future. To make it more profitable for our members to get out more of the lectures, every instructor prepares an outline which contains a statement of facts on the subject he is going to talk about, and ends up in question form. Copies of these outlines are placed in the hands of the students, and they follow the lecturer according to these outlines. Afterward these outlines are sent to our Local Unions outside of New York, advising them to arrange lectures according to their contents.

Because of lack of space we are compelled to limit ourselves to a brief description of only the more important activities of the Educational Committee of the I. L. G. W. U. (To be continued)

# War Profits of the Patrioteers

By BASIL M. MANLY

(Continued from last week)

I have tabulated the returns of industries engaged in manufacturing and selling the principal necessities of life. There is not a single one of these branches of industry and trade in which there was not at least one establishment making 100 per cent or more on its capital stock. Out of 506 flour mills, 84 reported net profits of over 100 per cent on their capital stock, and one company reported 2,628 per cent. The bread and bakery companies were not quite so fortunate, but out of 217 of them, 34, or more than one-seventh made more than 100 per cent on their capital stock, and 153, or more than two-thirds, made over 20 per cent on their invested capital.

The newspapers have carried advertisements costing millions of dollars telling how little profit is made by the meat packers. The Treasury Department's reports show that out of 122 meat-packers, 30, or one out of every four, made more than 100 per cent profit on their capital stock. One of these companies, not one of the "Big Five," made the nice little profit of 4,244 per cent on its capital stock in 1917. In this connection I discovered one interesting

and significant thing while examining this report of the Treasury Department. On page 363 I found a meat packing corporation with a capital stock of \$100,000,000 in 1917. There were only two meat packing corporations with capital stock of \$100,000,000 in 1917—Armour & Co. and Swift & Co. The corporation that is mentioned above reported to the Treasury Department a net income in 1917 of \$49,139,147; after the payment of income and excess profits taxes it still had a net income of \$43,810,984. Looking at the published reports of Armour and Swift I find that Armour reported to the public profits of only \$30,628,157 in 1917, and Swift reported profits of only \$34,650,000. I do not know which of these companies is represented in the Treasury Department's report, but I do know that whichever one it is concealed from the public either \$9,000,000 or \$13,000,000 net income which it reported to the Treasury Department. In other words, the Treasury Department's report reveals beyond question that one of these companies has falsified its report to the public and to its stockholders. If the public had the access to the tax reports to which it is

entitled by every rule of justice and by every precedent of the American government, there would be no difficulty in ascertaining which of these companies was guilty of this offense. As it is both of them must lie under suspicion.

While the war was at its height and the federal government was bending every energy to sell Liberty Bonds to pay the heavy cost, the Federal Trade Commission, in connection with its investigation of the packers, called upon Armour & Co. to furnish a sworn statement of the profits of their subsidiary South American beef companies. No reply was received from Armour & Co.; but one morning Federal Trade Commissioner J. Franklin Fort, former governor of New Jersey, received a visit from a noted Chicago corporation lawyer. He said that he was there representing Armour & Company and wanted Governor Fort to use his influence with the other Federal Trade Commissioners to recall their demand for a sworn statement of the profits of Armour & Company's South American subsidiaries.

(To be continued)

# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.

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## EDITORIALS

### CONVENTION PROBLEMS

The Convention of the International is drawing nearer. We have only a short time left. It is therefore not amiss to bring before the attention of the readers of Justice the chief problems with which our delegates will have to deal at the Convention. But as we cannot state here all the problems, we shall satisfy ourselves with a brief discussion of those three questions which we have already touched upon in the previous issues of Justice.

The Convention will have to consider (1) the question whether or not the Union shall engage in cloak manufacturing, (2) the plan of combining for special purposes all the needle unions into one general federation or alliance, (3) the problem of establishing closer relations between our garment unions and those of Europe.

The importance of these problems is obvious enough. It is evident that it is only in becoming itself a manufacturer that the Union would be able to exercise full control over all the phases of the life of the factory under its sway, and in this way to really protect the workers from being exploited. But this means not only an increase of the power of the Union, not only immediate advantages to be gained from the fact that the profits, instead of going to the pockets of the employers would henceforth become the common good of the Union as a whole, but it also means a first and significant step toward the ultimate goal of labor; it means the first step in the direction of collective ownership.

A federation of all those that are employed in the needle industry is all the more urgent now as the reaction prevailing at present in this country begins to raise its head higher and higher, and as the insolence of the employers begins to surpass all limits. And closer relations between the garment workers of America and those of Europe would tend to make the general alliance of needle workers a universal federation.

The distinctive and most promising feature of all these plans lies in the fact that they combine in an excellent manner practical considerations and ideal aims, that they take into account immediate needs as well as aspirations looking forward to the future.

We are well aware that these plans will not pass unchallenged. Vehement opposition may be expected from the camp of our extreme realists as well as from that of our extreme idealists. Those of our workers who are accustomed to lean from day to day on the mouth and who have nothing but scorn for everything which cannot yield immediate results and palpable advantages will condemn our plans as idle dreams unworthy of the attention of serious persons. Our extreme idealists, on the other hand, who feed their eyes

exclusively upon the future, and whose device is "either everything or nothing" will see in the idea of making our unions factory owners, for gains of a local and temporary character, precious energy which has been stored up for the sake of delivering a crushing and final blow to our industrial system.

Fortunately, these two extreme elements form only an insignificant minority in our International. The large bulk of her members have a sound sense of proportion. While being sensitive to the value of immediate advantages, they have at the same time a keen eye for ideal and remote consequences. And we are certain that they will welcome this plan with enthusiasm.

Important as the good will and sympathies of our members are for the acceptance of this proposal, we must however admit that we need something more in order to transform these plans into facts. For our plans are beset with intrinsic obstacles which could be removed only if our members would agree to make certain sacrifices.

To engage successfully in manufacturing the Union must have at its command a large amount of money. And if we are anxious to have the Union the real owner of the factories, we shall have to draw the money required for this purpose largely from the members of the International. To assure its successful working of the factory armed so as to make it an example worthy to be imitated by other unions we must make it largely the property of the union. Its development would doubtless be greatly hampered, if it were, for instance, to be mortgaged from the very beginning to a bank or any other capitalistic corporation.

The same is also true of the plan of a general alliance of all the workers employed in the needle industry. Such an organization could evidently not spring into existence one fine morning of itself. Great efforts will have to be applied in order to make its birth possible. And once it is born, considerable sums of money will be required to maintain its existence and to make its life felt wherever labor interests are at stake. And the source for this money will be of course the pockets of those who make up the unions of the alliance.

The burden of the expenses connected with restoring and organizing the needle industry in Europe will also lie for a long time on the shoulders of our union. The unions of Europe are too poor to contribute anything for this purpose.

But we need extra money not only for extra purposes. The increased expenses connected with the carrying out of our regular work required also a corresponding increase of our financial resources. The financial part of the International will show clearly to the delegates that it is impossible

for the office of our organization to go on with his work with our present resources.

We could of course meet the expenses of our regular work by raising the per capita tax of our members to ten cents, in accordance with the recommendation made by the General Executive Board at its last meeting in Philadelphia. But for all our extra needs and special work a sum of a few hundred thousand dollars and perhaps of a million will have to be raised.

The General Executive Board with President Schlesinger at its head has confidence enough in the members of the International to expect that they will wholeheartedly support those of their delegates who will vote at the Convention in favor of these proposals. It is fully convinced that our members will be little frightened by the prospect of increased per capita taxes, if they realize the far-reaching consequences which these plans entail.

### A CALL FOR HELP

We should like to draw the attention of our readers to the following letter addressed to us by the men and women garment workers of Austria.

"Dear Comrades:

"You probably know well enough under what conditions we have to live at present. We have been reduced by the war to the role of beggars. Our economic life is ruined. Our money has lost almost its entire value.

"By the grace of the Peace Treaty we are imprisoned in an area yielding little food, devoid of coal as well as of all other necessary raw products.

"We cannot purchase abroad the minimum of supplies necessary to keep our souls and bodies together. For the price of our money has fallen very low. Through lack of coal and other raw materials we are unable to produce anything for export so as to be able to pay for imported goods.

"Our country produces only a fifth part of the food required by us. You can easily imagine our terrible plight.

"We have been planning for a long time to apply to you for a money loan. With the money of this loan you could purchase for our ten thousand members packages of food as well as of other necessities of life, and send them to us through the American Relief Association. But we finally dropped this plan. In the first place, because we are not certain whether the value of our money would rise to such an extent as to enable us to repay our debts. In the second place because we do not want to interfere with the work of the International Federation of Trade Unions.

"The International Federation of Trade Unions (its seat is in Holland) appeals to the unions of all countries to collect money for the purpose of purchasing food and other necessities of life for the organized workers of Austria.

"If our plan cannot be realized we ask you to make known the appeal of the International Federation of Trade Unions. In contributing money to this fund you will at the same time help us. For part of the money collected will also be allotted to us.

"In the hope that we shall be able, as in former happy days, to give faithfully to the International, we remain,

"Truly yours,

"Alliance of the Garment Workers of Austria.

"Franz Bolongata," "Secretary."

This letter speaks for itself. The

cry of our Austrian brothers and sisters is so heart-rending, their distress is indeed so great that it would be cruel and inhuman to refuse them help. It is our duty to do all in our power for them. It is a question here of nothing else but of bread for the hungry and of clothes for the naked.

It is true the International has taken its deep interest in the fate of our suffering brothers and sisters during all the years since Europe has been plunged into its present misery. Thousands and ten thousands of dollars have been contributed by our members to the fund of the Joint Distributing Committee. It is also true that a part of the money has reached our comrades. But we must say it quite frankly, that it is only a part that reached them. We cannot evidently undo what has been done. But it is in our power to prevent things from taking place. We must therefore see to it that every penny contributed by our members should go to those who are tied to us by bonds of common interests and ideals.

The International had up to the present no way of communicating directly with Europe. Only privileged institutions were able to reach the sufferers in Europe. We naturally had no choice but to entrust the distribution of the money to these bodies the matter of distribution. Things have however changed of late. The channels of communicating with Europe have recently been restored more or less. Through Schlesinger's trip to Europe, the International has become connected with the European relief organizations. Under such conditions, it becomes both urgent and possible for us to change our former policy. We must not henceforth satisfy ourselves exclusively with giving. The question of distributing the money must be of less importance to us than the question of raising it. There is no reason why we should put the money contributed by our members for their brothers and sisters under the absolute control and the arbitrary disposal of others at the time when we have the means to secure the money for those for whom they were given.

We are certain that our members will not refuse to do their bit in the drive for 35 million dollars to be started soon by the respective committees of the American Jewish Relief, of the Central Relief, and of the Peoples' Relief. We hope that our members will contribute to this drive either by donating the wages of a day's work or in some other way.

The question naturally arises here whether we should entrust our contributions to the People's Relief Committee, which transmits its funds to the Joint Distribution Committee, or whether before, or whether we shall try to distribute the money ourselves.

We find it necessary to emphasize here that our words have not to be interpreted so as to imply that we doubt whether the Joint Distribution Committee has been faithful to its principles, or whether it has not fulfilled its duties as they are understood by it. But as the same time it cannot be denied that in the question of distribution there may be involved factors that are quite foreign to the purposes of the Joint Distribution Committee.

What concerns us above all is the question of how to reach with our contributions those of the Jewish workers of Europe for whom they were chiefly intended. "Shall we establish for this purpose a distributing machinery of our own? Or shall we increase this plan

proves to be impossible on account of economy or other considerations, continue to entrust our money to the Joint Distribution Committee with the proviso that the International shall be directly represented in the Joint Distribution Committee through one or two of its members? Let us hope that the Convention will find a solution of this problem.

## AN ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE RAILROAD STRIKE

To listen to the jubilant clamors of the capitalist press one may believe that the strike of the railroad workers has been broken as far back as last week. We are told by these papers that the strikers are frantically trying to outrun each other in a wild race for their former jobs. All this is of course, propaganda meant to frighten and confuse the less courageous of the strikers. We are confronted here with an old device, with the tactics which were employed by the press in the last steel strike. In the case of that strike we were also assured by the press that the strike was broken and that the workers were begging on their knees for mercy, at a time when a quarter of a million of workers were striking. It is therefore impossible to foretell what the outcome of the strike will be on the score of the assertions of the general press. And as a matter of fact, the switchmen and yardmen were still striking at a time when these lines were written.

But we would perhaps not have mentioned here this strike at all had it not been for the following interesting comment upon the situation made by the Weekly News Letter, of the American Federation of Labor. We find it worth while to reproduce this comment in full:

"While trade unionists condemn the irregular strike of railroad employees, they ask: 'Do the railroad managers see in this out-law strike a chance to split the railroad brotherhoods and destroy their future effectiveness?'

While the unionists make the point that this strike possesses features unknown in any other extensive strike in this country, there has been no violence and if strikers commit violence during a legitimate strike, trade unionists say, why are they law abiding during this outbreak? Or would the present situation justify the unionists' claims in other strikes that employers are behind the destruction of property and slugging of strike-breakers as an excuse for private police, deputy sheriffs, troops and injunctions?

"This strike has been on for a fortnight and there was no call for troops, no violence reported and no screaming newspaper editorials that the strikers are attempting to defy the government and starve the public.

"The government's action in this out-law strike is in contrast to its activity before and during the recent miners' strike. For over a fortnight the attorney general has been 'studying' the railroad strike, and has asked officials of two eastern railroads for a list of strikers and men who are leading the strike. Before the miners' strike was called Attorney General Palmer had secured a federal injunction against these workers, and newspapers became hysterical over the danger of people freezing to death.

"In the miners' strike agents of the department of justice swarmed through the coal fields, and no public demand was made on the coal owners to assist the department.

It is a year and a half since the War practically came to an end, and almost as long since the War Labor Board has ceased to function. During the period of its existence, this Board, organized for the purpose of eliminating obstacles that may prove a hindrance to production, has assumed, ~~extra~~ judicial powers and upon ~~more~~ than one occasion, even brushed aside decisions of the highest courts, the application of which might have tended to decrease production and thus impede the progress of the war. With the extinction of this emergency Board, however, the legal status of labor, as regards its principal safeguards and immunities, reverted back to its pre-War position.

Let us examine for a brief moment the minima of legal safeguards which organized labor regards as vital for its existence. Among these the principal ones are:

1. The right to organize
2. The right to strike and boycott

3. The right to collective recognition and bargaining.

The first right—to organize voluntarily into trade groups or associations—would, on its face, appear to be such an unalienable right inherent to co-living in a free community, that it would hardly be questioned. It is, nevertheless, an interesting commentary upon the general immature state of mind of the country, that this right to organize has not yet been absolutely conceded to American workers and that as the law stands today men and women can be very effectively prevented from organizing and be made to suffer for any attempt in this direction. Of course, this is not done in a direct and affirmative way. Ostensibly, the "right to organize" is conceded, ~~higher~~ wholly or in part, by almost the entire opinion of the country, except by an inveterate handful of industrial Bourbonns who wield automatic power over their workers. In practice, however, this right is denied, and in so far as the courts are concerned, and the courts are a factor of major importance in this matter, this "right to organize," when it comes in conflict with another "right," gives way to the latter and is defeated.

Let us speak concretely. The right to organize has come, during the past several decades, into conflict with the "right of con-

tract"—in case where employers, as a rule, large employers, would exact from their employees agreements not to join the unions. As it is well known, hundreds of the biggest industrial companies all over the country are resorting to such a practice in an endeavor to bar labor unionism from their plants. It would be hardly an exaggeration to say that in practically every large non-union industrial plant in the country where the hire of labor is effected through written application, there invariably appears upon that application, in one form or another, a stipulation against the applicant's affiliation with an "outside" trade organization. Upon signing such an application and obtaining employment, the applicant enters into a "voluntary" contract and the employer obtains thereby, all the privileges accruing from such a contract, not only to the extent of wielding the whip of discharge over the head of the employee, but equally the right to proceed against any labor organization that may attempt to or succeed in affiliating such an employee with its organization, as an act purporting to abrogate or affect adversely his "right of contract" or his liberty to contract his workers to remain non-union.

Moreover, this "right of contract," when it comes in conflict with the "right to organize," affects organized labor in another very vital way. Not only does it give the employers the help of the injunction weapon against labor unions in situations of this kind, but it protects such "voluntary agreements" from whatever legislation individual states may have passed or might pass for the protection of organized labor or individual workers from discrimination or contractual abuse of one kind or another. A number of states, among these New York, have, as a matter of fact, enacted, during the last decade or so, legislation to prevent discriminatory acts by employers against workers simply and solely because they belonged to a trade union. This legislation, however, has been nullified subsequently by the highest court in the land which declared such legislation unconstitutional and sanctioned the right of employers to exact from employees agreements not to join a labor organization as a condition of employment.

The right to organize, in an ab-

road owners are evidently to no purpose. The reason given for Palmer's comparative leniency towards the present strike seems also to us to be hardly cogent. It is claimed that Palmer does not display in this strike so much zeal as he manifested in the last strike of the miners. We could venture the following explanation for this. Palmer knows well that he did all in his power in the case of the miners' strike to acquire the good graces of all friends of capital. And now, when Palmer is already assured that his methods have been duly appreciated by the friends of capital, he may find it quite expedient to please a little also the friends of labor, especially as they have also some weight in the matters of election. We also doubt whether it is correct to maintain that the press was more hysterical in the miners' strike than it is now. To us the opposite seems to be true.

solite and concrete sense, has not yet been won by American organized labor. The right to contract "not to organize" is still held superior to the "right to organize," and every agency of authority is at the disposal of the former for its enforcement. The argument that such agreements are in their very essence not voluntary; that no individual worker in need of a job can be deemed as performing a voluntary act when he barter away his right to affiliate with his fellow men for legitimate purposes as a condition of obtaining the means of a livelihood; that such a contract is, on its very face, an act of coercion and should not be validated or encouraged, as inimical to public welfare; that the only fair and reasonable contract is one in which a worker, who has only his labor to sell, could enter, is one that he may conclude in common with his fellow workers where his relative position of equality is to a certain extent equalized with that of the employer,—have been swept aside and rejected by the arbiters of the land upon the dry and false pretext of the "right of contract." That this is a violently discriminatory class interpretation, no one who exercises fair judgment can fail to see.

Such is the state of facts with regard to this, one of the pivotal points of labor's tactical program. In spite of prevailing illusions, within and without the ranks of labor, organized labor has not yet made headway against its opposing forces on this cardinal issue, and the vindication of this precious right is still ahead of it. More, in the next article.

## CONTROVERSY RENEWED IN THE WAIST AND DRESS INDUSTRY

(Continued from Page 1)

in the case of 20 per cent of the trade.

As to the last condition put forth by the manufacturers in their letter that the union give adequate security of its willingness to live up to the contract or change its leaders, President Schlesinger said that this condition will never be complied with, and that the union will not elect its officials to suit the employers' organization.

"Meanwhile," President Schlesinger concluded, "we are not sitting idle. The union is watching all the developments in the controversy and we are getting ready to act at the proper moment."

Injunction proceedings against President Schlesinger and General Secretary Baroff as heads of the International Association of Dress and Waistmakers, against Brothman, Shoenholtz, Hochman, Lewin, and Horowitz as officials of the Waistmakers' Union, have been instituted in the Supreme Court by Arthur L. Williams & Co., dress and waist manufacturers and members of the Association.

The firm claims that the Union violated the agreement between the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association and the Organizing Union which declared a strike against the firm. As a matter of fact this firm never observed the agreement. It remains to be seen what the court will decide in this case.

The attorney for the Union is ex-Congressman Meyer London, and Harry Gordon will act for the manufacturers.

"Trade unionists are in sympathy with the grievances of the outlaws, but make strenuous objection to methods which would destroy discipline and regularity. The claim that union action in this out-law strike is urged by those who are blind to these grievances and who favor handcuffing workers to their jobs."

The strike is accordingly not to the dislike of the railroad owners as we might believe. They welcome secretly the strike as an excellent opportunity for splitting the ranks of the powerful railroad brotherhoods. This, however, seems hardly to tally with the ideas expressed in the last paragraph of the comment. If the responsibility for the strike cannot be laid to the charge of the advocates of One Big Union and if the claims of the workers are just, then the strike is an inevitable result of natural causes, and the insinuation about the secret likes or dislikes of the rail-

# THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

Abe M. Cohen, No. 1367, appeared. Bro. Cohen resigned on March 8, 1920, after having been in the sub-manufacturing business for over a year. Now that he went out of business, he wants to be given his old standing and his book. He was informed by the Executive Board that according to our Constitution he will have to pay \$3.00 in order to reinstate himself in our Union.

Jos. Strear, No. 2702, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Lipschitz with being a member of the concern of the R. & S. Cloak Co., 207 E. 13th St. Brother Lipschitz states that on many occasions when he visited the above shop, he found cut work on the table but no cutter. The last time that he went up to the shop he found Bro. Strear there and he was told by a number of people in the shop that Brother Strear goes out during the day soliciting orders, cuts at night, and serves other functions of a boss. Brother Strear states that he has not been working that house for the last eight weeks and that he has been helping his brother in the fruit business. Upon motion the case was dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence and the office was instructed not to give working card to Brother Strear for this house.

Samuel Fisher appeared. Mr. Fisher filed application some time ago, failed to pass examination, and was thereupon rejected by the membership committee. He now appears, presenting a letter from Brother M. Zuckerman, General Secretary-Treasurer of the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers, but on account of sickness is unable to work any longer. His support of Fisher, being the only Samuel Fisher, being the only support of his family, he asks us to permit him to take another examination. Upon motion same was granted.

Max Schechter, No. 3435, appeared. Brother Schechter stated that he has not been working in the cutting trade since Jan. 15th, 1920, as he is engaged in the insurance business. He now wishes to resign and would like the Executive Board to relieve him of payment of the \$5 assessment. He was informed by the Executive Board that the assessment of \$5 went into effect on April 5, 1920, and that he will have to pay same, as no member can resign unless he is in good standing up to date.

Hugo Rind, No. 826, appeared on summons, charged by the cutters of the shop of Nathan Schuss, 136 Madison Ave., with doing his own cutting during the slack season while the cutters are out of work. Shop Chairman of the tailors, Brother Sam Grönowsky, 63 E. 112th St., appeared as a witness for the cutters, stating that Brother Rind is cutting heavy lots while these men are out. Brother Rind denied that he works constantly on lots but stated that he is mostly engaged in cutting duplicates and samples and that in his capacity as a foreman, he cannot very well refuse to occasionally cut a lot as he has no patterns to make or grade. The Executive Board admonished Brother Rind and informed him that in the future he is to call in cutters whenever he has skirts to cut. Upon motion the case was dismissed.

Samuel Blau, No. 5298, appeared. This brother is working for the Cambridge Waist Co., at 30 E. 33rd St. and he charges Brother Harry Bernstein, No. 6952, with having assaulted him

in the street, outside of the shop. The Executive Board instructed the Secretary to summons both brothers for the next meeting of the Executive Board on April 22.

Benjamin Biczostek, No. 5293, appeared. This brother was fined \$50 during the General Waist and Dress strike of 1919, and because of the fine he has been dropped from the books. He now states that he wishes to pay the fine of \$50 and would like a continuous account. Taking into consideration the fact that his brother has, subsequently to his being fined, acted as a good Union man and responded to strike calls whenever called upon to do so, the decided to grant him a continuous Executive Board, upon motion, account.

Morris Blumberg, No. 5024, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Settle with receiving time and a half for overtime on the April 23rd, 37 West 27th Street. Blumberg is also charged with working 4½ hours overtime on two consecutive nights, which is contrary to our laws, and also with accepting a lay-off on a Tuesday. A collection of \$13.12 was made, covering the difference in the time and a half for overtime and double time, and in which he was laid off. Brother for the balance of the week dur-Blumberg admits to the charges, but claims that the boss had appealed to him, showing him that he could not afford to pay the regular scale for overtime, and he therefore accepted same. Upon motion a fine of \$50 was imposed.

II. Zaslosky, owner of the Z & S Midway Co., appeared. Mr. Zaslosky complained against the behavior of Bro. Adm. Liebowitz, No. 5105, in the above shop. Mr. Zaslosky was informed that he will have to take the case up with the manager of the Waist and Dress Division, and if not satisfied with his decision he can then appear before the Executive Board.

Sam Kalfus, No. 5077, appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Sonen with not having reported the failure of the firm of M. Sobel, 158 W. 29th St., to grant him the increase of \$5 which went into effect on February 2, 1920. A collection of \$30 was made in this case. Brother Sonen States that Brother Kalfus, being under the impression that he would be the steady man in the shop, did not complain to the Union, but when he subsequently learned that he will have to divide work with another cutter in that shop, he then reported the matter to the Union. Brother Kalfus stated that the reason for his failure to report from the very beginning that he did not receive his increase was that the firm was slow and he did not want to take any chances. Upon motion a fine of \$15 was imposed.

## SECURE BOUND VOLUMES OF "JUSTICE" FOR 1919

There are a limited number of bound volumes of "Justice" for 1919 for sale. The price of a volume is 3 dollars.

Copies may be secured at the General Office of the International.

E. Lieberman,  
Manager.

## Activities at the Waistmakers' Unity Center.

Classes were held as usual in English, Swimming, Mandolin practice and Recreation. The latter class was conducted on the roof of the school, in order to take advantage of the fresh air, games took the place of the usual gymnastics.

Following the recreation class, the students listened to a short talk on feet and good shoes. By popular demand Mrs. Retting will continue this talk next Thursday evening, between the recreation class and the lecture of Health by Dr. Sarah Greenberg, which begins at 8.45 P.M.

Last Sunday a group of students met Mrs. Retting at the South Ferry and spent the day on Staten Island near Silver Lake, tea

and coffee were made over a fire, true camp fashion and lunch was followed by games and play. Every one enjoyed the day in the open and there will be many more such outings before the season closes.

## Closing Celebration at Waistmakers' Unity Center.

There is to be a concert and dance at the Waistmakers' Unity Center, P. S. 40, 320 East 20th St., on the evening of Saturday, May 15th, at 8 P. M. Fine music, both violin and vocal, will be offered in the auditorium, after which there will be exhibition and general dancing upstairs in the gymnasium. Tea and ice cream will add to the enjoyment of the evening. Everyone is cordially invited to come and bring their family and friends.

## What the Philadelphia Waistmakers Must Remember

Every members of the Philadelphia Waist and Dress Makers' Union, Local 15, must bear in mind the following three points:

(1) There are only a few days left for the International Labor holiday — "First of May." The Union, therefore, requests all its members to stop work on the First of May. The Union has passed at a big membership meeting on April 1st and it is the duty of every member of the Waist Makers' Union to carry out this decision.

For this occasion a concert and mass meeting was arranged for Saturday May 1st at 10 o'clock in the morning which will take place in the Scottish Rite Hall at Broad and Race Streets. Tickets will be distributed free of charge in the office of the Union. All arrangements were made that a concert should be of first rate. Also prominent speakers will address the meeting.

(2) It is the fourth year since we have in Philadelphia a Unity House of our own. Thousands of our members realize what it means to them to come every summer, after a year's hard work to our own home for recreation and rest. Every member who has had a chance to visit the Unity House, for the past years, know how wonderful it feels to be there surrounded with glory of beautiful nature and picturesque scenes.

The Union, this year, has made arrangements, under the auspices of a Committee elected by the members, that the Unity House should be furnished with all equipments and facilities to satisfy our members. For that purpose, an able manager was engaged to run the house in perfect order. Also a recreation teacher will be engaged. We, therefore, wish to remind our members that the books for registration are open and those who intend to register are requested to do it as quick as possible, in order to enable the Unity House Committee to make room for all.

Registration can be made with Brother Hindin at the library of the Union, 38 North 11th Street.

(3) According to the decision passed at the Shop Chairmen and Membership meetings the increase of dues from 25 cents to 30 cents will be in effect May 15th, 1920. It is, therefore, necessary for you

to know that all these who are in arrears should make an effort to pay up their dues before May 15, otherwise you will have to pay arrears at the rate of 30 cents.

Members are requested to have these three items in mind and act accordingly.

## STATE LABOR PARTY TO BE ORGANIZED, MAY 29, IN SCHENECTADY

A Convention has been called by the Labor Party of New York City to be held in Schenectady, May 29th and 30th at 10 a. m., in Machinists Hall, 258 State St., to form a state-wide Labor Party, draft a State platform and take up the question of nominating a full State ticket.

All unions, farmers and liberal organizations who subscribe to the following principles are entitled to three delegates:

1. Government ownership and democratic operation of all public utilities.
2. Free speech, free press, free assemblage, the right to organize, strike and collective bargaining.
3. Industrial equality for all.
4. Political equality for all citizens of both sexes, all races and nationalities.



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# THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

## "JANE CLEGG"

How much can a woman endure? This is told in "Jane Clegg" by St. John Ervine, a play of middle-class life in England, which continues at the Garrick Theatre.

This is the second Ervine play produced by the Theatre Guild. Though lacking the fire and tensely gripping situations of "John Ferguson," the first play, there is nevertheless such wonderful characterization in "Jane Clegg," such true-to-life acting, that many will agree in declaring it equal to, if not surpassing "John Ferguson."

There are just five in the cast, that is, five grown-ups and two children. Each part offers an exceptional opportunity for skillful interpretation, and so well is the acting that it would be almost impossible to say to whom shall be awarded highest honors.

Dudley Digges has made the most of his opportunity in the role of "Henry Clegg," Jane's husband. We realize Henry's worthlessness even before he appears on the scene, as he is being discussed by Jane and his mother while they patiently wait for him to come home. He is too weak and irresponsible to be actually cruel to his wife. But he neglects her, lies and is disloyal to her, though, strangely enough, he is really faithful and devoted to a "fancy woman."

Jane has known of his infidelity, but has forgiven him for the sake of the children. But when Henry, finding himself in a fearful mess, tries to secure some of the money which an uncle of Jane's left her, Jane at last begins to rebel and declares she will not let him have a farthing until he tells her why he needs the money.

Henry must have money and in desperation avails himself of a check belonging to his firm. He is discovered and Jane, to save them all from disgrace, pays up. She still is unaware of what Henry has done with the money and her demands for the truth bring only lies and more lies.

When, through Muncie, a bookie, Jane learns that Henry has used the money to pay passage to Canada for himself and his "fancy woman" she is stunned. But only for the moment. There are no scenes, no heroics, no tears. Cool, self-possessed, Jane bids a quiet farewell to her husband and sends him on his way.

Margaret Weyerher's portrayal of Jane as a woman of almost uncanny self-control is perhaps too cold to be appealing. However, after Henry has left her, for a moment there is a wild struggle of self-possession, but again she mas-

ters her hysterical outburst and turning out the hall light, walks calmly up the stairs.

Henry's mother, an old woman, blinded to the faults of her only son, is well played by Helen Westley, who in this role has surpassed anything she has done so far in the Guild Theatre series.

Henry Travers, as Mr. Muncie, is exceptionally fine as the cockney bookie. It is he who tempts Henry "an absolute rotter." After the treatment he has received at Henry's hands, we can hardly condemn him for "squealing" on his pal about "the fine bit o' skirt."

Erskine Sanford is the righteous clerk who discovers Henry's seizure of the firm's money. The two children are real, which is more than can be said of most stage children.

Walter Hact will present "Martinique," at the Eltinge Theatre, Monday evening. The cast includes Josephine Victor, Emmett Corrigan, Arthur Hohl, Maedel Turner, Vincent, Coleman, Ida Waterman, Helen Blair, Fleming Ward and Marion Dyer.

## RINGLING BROS. CIRCUS

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Combined Circus, which is entertaining all New York at Madison Square Garden, is now on the last lap of the engagement in the metropolis. Closing performances will be given on Saturday May 1st.

The performance this season is replete with novelties and both hemispheres have given the cream of the sawdust profession to the "circus colossal." From Iceland comes a stalwart band of wrestlers who depict the art of glima as practised in the frozen north.

May Wirth, the champion lady bareback rider of the world; Lily Leitzel, known as the world's greatest gymnast; Bird Millman, whose charming grace on the tight wire has earned for her the title of "a fairy on a cobweb" and Tribby White, who does a giant swing far above the heads of spectators are among the leading feminine stars.

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#### CLOAK & SUIT

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#### WAIST & DRESS

Monday, May 10th.

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Monday, May 17th.

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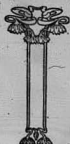
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